

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 300667 TOSEC 320185

53

ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 PRS-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:JCHAMBERLAIN:JC

APPROVED BY PA:WDYESS

S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

PA, S/S, S/PRS

----- 082339

O 101809Z DEC 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 300667 TOSEC 320185

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT MICHAEL GETLER 0YLINER WASHINGTON POST FRIDAY DECEMBER 10 HEADED "KISSINGER DELIVERS CARTER PLEDGE TO STRENGTHEN NATO."
2. HENRY A. KISSINGER, IN HIS FINAL APPEARANCE BEFORE NATO AS SECRETARY OF STATE, TODAY DELIVERED A PLEDGE FROM PRESIDENT-ELECT JIMMY CARTER THAT THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE WILL BE "SUSTAINED AND STRENGTHENED, UNDER HIS ADMINISTRATION.
3. CARTER'S WORDS APPEARED TO COMFORT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE 15 MEMBERS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION GATHERED HERE FOR THE OPENING OF THE TWO-DAY MEETING.
4. TO MANY OF THE MINISTERS, CARTER REMAINS AN UNKNOWN, AND HIS ASSURANCES WERE "JUST WHAT THE ALLIANCE NEEDED AT THIS TIME," NATO SECRETARY GENERAL JOSEPH LUNS SAID.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 300667 TOSEC 320185

5. FOR KISSINGER, IT WAS HIS FAREWELL APPEARANCE BEFORE

NATO'S ATLANTIC COUNCIL, A BODY THAT, LIKE SEVERAL OTHERS,

HIS PERSONALITY HAS TENDED TO DOMINATE DURING HIS THREE YEARS AS SECRETARY OF STATE.

6. WITHIN NATO, THE DEPARTURE OF KISSINGER COMBINED WITH THE ARRIVAL OF AN UNTESTED U.S. ADMINISTRATION, FINANCIAL STRAINS OVER DEFENSE SPENDING IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES AND A GROWING PREOCCUPATION WITH INCREASING SOVIET MILITARY STRENGTH HAVE PRODUCED A SLIGHT UNEASINESS.

7. THUS, THE PLEDGE FROM CARTER, WHO TALKED OF DEFENSE CUTBACKS DURING HIS CAMPAIGN, IS ESPECIALLY WELCOME HERE.

8. SIMILARLY, THE APPOINTMENT AS KISSINGER'S SUCCESSOR OF CYRUS VANCE, WHOSE GENERALLY CAUTIOUS VIEWS AND PAST ASSOCIATION WITH DEFENSE AFFAIRS IS WELL KNOWN HERE, HAS HAD A SOOTHING EFFECT.

9. SOME SENIOR NATO OFFICIALS ADD THAT WHILE KISSINGER WAS CLEARLY THE CENTRAL FIGURE, HIS PRESENCE TENDED TO DOMINATE THE REST OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AND HIS REPLACEMENT BY THE LOWER-KEYED VANCE MIGHT IMPROVE ALLIANCE MORALE.

10. NATO IS NOW AWAITING CARTER'S CHOICE AS DEFENSE SECRETARY, AND THE FEELING AT HIGH LEVELS HERE IS THAT FORMER PENTAGON RESEARCH DIRECTOR HAROLD BROWN, A NUCLEAR PHYSICIST AND PRESIDENT OF CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, HAS THE INSIDE TRACK.

11. IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE MINISTERS, CARTER SAID HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT THE CHALLENGES THAT FACED NATO COULD BE MET.

12. THOSE CHALLENGES, HE SAID, REQUIRE MAINTAINING "A COMMON STRATEGY AGAINST COMMON THREATS, THAT WE HAVE SUFFICIENT AND STRONG MILITARY FORCES, AND THAT WE CONSULT CLOSELY AS WE NEGOTIATE WITH OTHERS ON BOTH EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL ISSUES."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 300667 TOSEC 320185

13. REPORTERS HERE FROM EASTERN EUROPE WERE STRUCK BY THE FACT THAT CARTER'S FIRST POSTELECTION STATEMENT TO NATO MADE NO MENTION OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS.

14. THE CLOSED-DOOR MEETING HERE IS A REGULARLY SCHEDULED SEMI-ANNUAL GATHERING, BUT NATO OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS PARTICULAR MEETING IS LIKELY TO BE REMEMBERED

AS KISSINGER'S VALEDICTORY RATHER THAN AS ONE MARKING
NEW NATO DECISIONS.

15. ONE REASON THE MEETING IS EXPECTED TO ACCOMPLISH
LITTLE IS THAT THE AMERICAN AND WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENTS
ARE BOTH EMERGING FROM FEDERAL ELECTIONS, WITH NEW LEGIS-
LATURES NOT YET CONVENED. ALLIANCE OFFICIALS SAY PRIVATE-
LY THAT THE GROWING UNOFFICIAL "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP,
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND WEST GERMANY IS REPLACING
THE U.S.-BRITISH ALLIANCE THAT ONCE DOMINATED NATO.

16. NATO OFFICIALS SAY THE MOST IMPORTANT AND BAFFLING
ISSUE BEFORE THE ALLIANCE NOW IS "THE CONTRAST BETWEEN
THE CONTINUING RUSSIAN MILITARY BUILD-UP AND THE SOVIETS'
STATED INTEREST IN ARMS CONTROL AND TRADE. WHERE DOES
THE BALANCE OF RUSSIAN INTENTIONS LIE?"

17. IN HIS 45-MINUTE ADDRESS, U.S. DELEGATION OFFICIALS
SAY, KISSINGER ALSO TERMED THE INCREASING STRENGTH OF
SOVIET FORCES AND INDUSTRY THE GREATEST LONG-TERM THREAT
THE WEST MUST CONTEND WITH.

18. HE ALSO CAUTIONED, THE OFFICIALS SAID, THAT HISTORI-
CALLY, THE SOVIETS HAVE ALWAYS HAD A BIG ARMY AND THAT
SIZE HAS NOT ALWAYS DETERMINED THE OUTCOME OF BATTLES.
HE WARNED AGAINST OVERESTIMATING SOVIET STRENGTH SO AS
NOT TO PARALYZE WESTERN WILL, ADDING THAT THE SOVIETS
HAD NUMEROUS PROBLEMS OF THEIR OWN.

19. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE TOLD THE MINISTERS THAT UNLESS
THE WEST PAYS THE BILL FOR MAINTAINING A MILITARY BALANCE
WITH THE SOVIET BLOC, THE SUCCESS OF WESTERN FOREIGN
POLICY WILL BE IN JEOPARDY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 300667 TOSEC 320185

20. KISSINGER, THE SOURCES SAID, FEELS THAT THE SOVIETS
HAVE NO EXPLICIT PLAN FOR WORLD DOMINATION, BUT CONTINUE
TO AMASS POWER ON A SCALE THAT MAKES ITS USE UNPREDICTABLE.

21. ADDRESSING SOME SPECIFIC POINTS, KISSINGER REPORTEDLY
SAID SOVIET PROBLEMS WITH SYRIA, THE REDUCTION IN IN-
FLUENCE OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, AND THE
GAIN OF MODERATE INFLUENCE IN SAUDI ARABIA HAD ALL COM-
BINED TO CREATE PROSPECTS FOR NEW PROGRESS IN THE MIDDLE
EAST.

22. KISSINGER SAID HE OPPOSED THE RECENT WARSAW PACT
PROPOSAL OF A JOINT TREATY TO BAN FIRST USE OF TACTICAL
NUCLEAR WEAPONS BECAUSE IT CLEARLY REDUCED THE OPTIONS

AVAILABLE TO THE WEST IF IT WERE BEING OVERRUN BY A SOVIET CONVENTIONAL ATTACK. THIS VIEW IS SHARED BY OTHER NATO NATIONS.

23. SIMILARLY, KISSINGER URGED NATO TO VETO ANOTHER WARSAW PACT PROPOSAL THAT WOULD FREEZE CURRENT NATO MEMBERSHIP. THIS WOULD KEEP SPAIN FROM JOINING NATO, AS THE UNITED STATES WANTS, ONCE THAT COUNTRY MOVES TOWARD A DEMOCRACY.

24. SEVERAL CONFERENCE SOURCES SAID KISSINGER APPEARED TO BE CHOKED UP AT THE CLOSE OF HIS SPEECH. EARLIER IN THE DAY, HE TURNED TO A COLLEAGUE AT A PICTURE TAKING SESSION AND SAID "THEY ARE TAKING PICTURES OF ME AS IF I ALREADY WERE A CORPSE." (END TEXT.)
ROBINSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, TEXT, POLICIES, PRESIDENT ELECT, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE300667
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JCHAMBERLAIN:JC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760456-1130
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761253/aaaabtkl.tel
Line Count: 185
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, NATO, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (CARTER, JIMMY), (GETLER, MICHAEL)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006